

the local bar association and several county attorneys were contacted regarding pretrial diversion programs. We found that there are several informal diversion programs that are presently operating here in the state. We also found that there were many county attorneys who did not feel that the Nebraska statutes give them the power to establish a pretrial diversion program. So they felt with this clarification by statute, they felt very comfortable in establishing a plan for their individual county. Therefore, LB 573 was introduced as enabling legislation to allow the various county attorneys to establish pretrial diversion programs. The legislation is, and I would like to repeat this, it is not mandatory. It is totally permissive with the final decision to be made by the county attorney. The bill does provide for broad guidelines which these county attorneys shall use in establishing the pretrial diversion programs for their county. Pretrial diversion is a concept in the criminal justice system whereby a person accused of a crime be allowed to avoid the traditional criminal justice process and thereby earn a dismissal of all charges by making certain contributions to his community in areas such as employment, education, restitution and voluntary work. It is another tool to aid the criminal justice system and I would move for the advancement of 573 as amended.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the advancement of the bill as amended to E & R for review. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. We are voting on the advancement of 573 to E & R for review. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The bill is advanced. The Clerk will read LB 380 now.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 380. Title read. The bill was read on January 17. It was referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Reutzel, do you have the committee amendments? Senator DeCamp, do you have the committee amendments to LB 380?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Committee amendments, Ag Committee, what Senator Reutzel had was a recycling program, paper recycling program that some of the legislative staff developed here and they just want to put it on a formalized basis. We